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THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

LAUCHLAN MACLEAN WATT

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Theodore F. Sanxay Fund

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Ben Kalmowitch

won as a prize at Gerald's

Bar-mitzvah party for writing

verses.

Jan. 25, 1920.

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Regimental District—
Glasgow.

Depot—
Hamilton.

Third and Fourth Battalions—
Formerly 1st Royal Lanark Militia.

Territorial Battalions—
5th (City of Glasgow).
6th (City of Glasgow).
7th (Blythswood).
8th (Lanark).
9th (Glasgow Highlanders).

Nine Service Battalions (10th to 18th).

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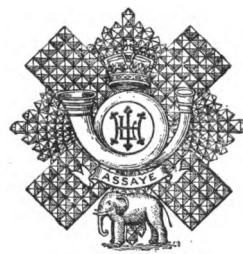

REGIMENTAL BADGE—

This Crest combines that of the 74th, the Assaye Regiment, and that of the 71st.

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THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

BY

LAUCHLAN MACLEAN WATT

AUTHOR OF

"SCOTTISH LIFE AND POETRY"

"THE GREY MOTHER AND SONGS OF EMPIRE"

"BRITANNIA'S ANSWER AND OTHER WAR POEMS"

ETC. ETC.

EDINBURGH

W. P. NIMMO, HAY, & MITCHELL

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BATTLE HONOURS BORNE ON THE COLOURS

"CARNATIC," "SHOLINGUR," "MYSORE," "HINDOOSTAN," "SERINGAPATAM," "CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, 1806," "ROLEIA," "VIMIERA," "CORUNNA," "BUSACO," "FUENTES D'ONOR," "CIUDAD RODRIGO," "BADAJOZ," "ALMARAZ," "SALAMANCA," "VITTORIA," "PYRENEES," "NIVELLE," "NIVE," "ORTHES," "TOULOUSE," "PENINSULA," "WATERLOO," "SOUTH AFRICA, 1851-2-3," "SEBASTOPOL," "CENTRAL INDIA," "EGYPT, 1882," "TEL-EL-KEBIR," "SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902," "MODDER RIVER."

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THE HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

I

THIS regiment is composed of the 71st and 74th, which were amalgamated in 1881.

The First Battalion was known in the beginning of its story as the 73rd, or Macleod's Highlanders, having been raised by the eldest son of the Earl of Cromarty, commonly called John, Lord Macleod. He had followed the glamour of the Jacobite appeal in the romantic enterprise of Prince Charles Edward.

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Having been pardoned in 1748 for his loyalty to the Stewart cause in 1745, he had gone abroad, and through the influence of Marshal Keith had been given a position in the Swedish army, after serving in which for twenty-seven years he rose to be Lieutenant-General. In 1777 he was presented to George III., who suggested that he should raise a regiment. Although he was now a landless lord he very soon gathered eight hundred and forty Highlanders, while David Baird and others raised two hundred and thirty-six Lowlanders with thirty-six English and Irish in Glasgow, making eleven hundred men who were embodied at Elgin in April 1778.

1778 was a prolific year for regiments. No fewer than twelve were

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raised, including the 73rd, 74th, 76th, 77th or Atholl, 78th, and 81st Highland regiments. Of these the 73rd and 78th were retained on the army establishments, having in due time become the 71st and 72nd respectively.

The same year a second battalion was raised. In the following year the First Battalion embarked for India, taking twelve months to reach Madras, after being detained for three months in Table Bay, owing to sickness. The Second Battalion was sent to Gibraltar in 1780, fighting, as marines, on the way thither, in the battle of Cape St. Vincent. They formed part of the garrison during the famous siege. They were disbanded at Stirling in 1783.

The First Battalion joined Sir

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Hector Munro's army in July 1780, near Madras. This force consisted of almost five thousand men, the majority of whom were native troops. Munro marched forward to join Colonel Baillie, who had nearly three thousand men under him. This movement caused Hyder Ali to raise the siege of Arcot, but he sent his son Tippoo Sahib with twenty-four thousand men, horse and foot, to intercept Baillie. When the forces were fifteen miles apart Baillie was attacked at Perambucam by Tippoo Sahib, who was repulsed after a very severe conflict. Some inexplicable delay took place here, and it was three days ere, under Captains David Baird and John Lindsay, the flank companies of the 73rd, with two companies of

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European Grenadiers, and eleven companies of natives, were pushed forward to Baillie's lines, who hoped, thus reinforced, to be able to press his way on through opposition till he reached Munro. He very soon, however, fell in with outposts of Hyder Ali's army. This Indian potentate, determined to shatter the British force, concentrated upon them, in their march through the jungle, the fire of fifty-seven cannon. The British pushed on in square, with the ammunition, transport, and sick in the centre; and after three hours' tremendous effort drove back the enemy. A terrible explosion at that very moment destroyed the British artillery, and swept away one entire side of their column. Immediately the Indian cavalry dashed upon them

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in death-dealing squadrons, while the infantry poured in volleys of musketry, till at length, reduced to about four hundred men, the remnant of his army was formed up by Baillie in squares. They repelled thirteen desperate charges, the very wounded having to take their turn at the bayonet. But at length, to saves the lives of the few who were left, a flag of truce was shown. There was no disgrace in surrender, for, as a French officer wrote, the British were raked by the fire of an immense artillery and attacked on all sides by not less than twenty-five thousand horse, with thirty battalions of Sepoys, besides Hyder Ali's European troops. Although quarter had been promised upon surrender, the infuriated Indians madly hacked and hewed even the

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wounded and the dying. The survivors were thrown into the most filthy dungeons, chained two and two, enduring untold suffering and death, while in their misery they were tempted with the promise of life and freedom if they would curse Christ and embrace Islam. But they preferred to die as they were. Captain David Baird was especially selected for hard treatment, as it was considered that he had been largely responsible for the resolute and fierce resistance of the British troops. It was in regard to this episode that his aged mother, remembering his impetuous daring spirit, when she heard his fate, exclaimed, "Lord pity the man that's chained to our Davie!"

After this terrible episode Munro retired to Chingleput, being har-

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assed all the way by the enemy; and he spent the rainy season in cantonment on Choultry Plain. Operations were resumed next year under Sir Eyre Coote, who marched upon Chillumborem, where were large stores of the enemy's grain. Hyder Ali alarmed, surrounded the British at Porto Novo, with one hundred thousand against their eight thousand; but he was determinedly repulsed. In the heat of the fight Sir Eyre Coote said to a piper, whose steadfastness he had observed, "For this you will receive silver pipes!" These he presented later on to the regiment as a memento of the man's devoted courage. The result of this battle was that he was able to reach Cuddalore.

Strong reinforcements now reached Sir Eyre Coote, and he set his army

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in motion, for the purpose of relief of Vellore. In the process he fought the second battle of Perambucam, with absolute disaster to Hyder Ali's forces.

The native potentate had rejoiced to try the gage of battle on the very place where he had so disastrously defeated Baillie. But he little knew the peril in which he involved himself, and the inspiration which that field, with the ghastly relics still to be found there, meant for the Highland soldiers. The place was still strewn with saddest mementoes of that terrible fight to the finish, in which the earlier force had been involved. The men who saw those pitiable traces of the massacre of their comrades and friends were not to be lightly brushed aside. The result was a

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crushing defeat of Hyder Ali's forces, and Sir Eyre Coote was enabled to put in a good fight at the Pass of Sholingur, which his stubborn foe had occupied in order to prevent the relief of Vellore. In this, however, he was disappointed, for his troops were completely defeated, the British-Indian cavalry pursuing them till sunset intervened. But Coote's army was destitute of provisions, and in distress it pushed on through the pass till at Altamaucherry it received what it sorely needed. Vellore was now relieved, and Chittoor taken, and thereafter the enemy withdrew to Arcot.

Resuming operations in 1782, Coote had to push on again to relieve Vellore, strictly blockaded by the enemy. This was a place of para-

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mount importance, as it was the key of the Passes of the Ghauts which were the avenues of conquest of the enemy's country. Its object accomplished, and six months' supply of rice thrown into the fortress, the army again retired.

During these struggles the regiment mourned the loss of a very interesting character, Corporal Ian Donn Mackay, son of Rob Donn the famous Gaelic bard. This man was of great value to the army, for in the long day's labour, when the men were exhausted on the march, he cheered the drooping ranks by singing to them the songs of his father. It is not the first time that song has exercised this function, since the days of Tyrtæus, the lame schoolmaster who marched with the Spartans and by his singing in-

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spired the men with fresh ardour for the fray.

The army of Tippoo Sahib in 1782 joined hands with the French reinforcements, while the British forces lay inactive. At length, himself reinforced by the 78th Highlanders, afterwards the 72nd, Sir Eyre Coote was able to begin a movement, in which he forced the enemy across the river Arnee.

The siege of Cuddalore now demanded attention. But anxieties and disappointments over his supplies so distressed Coote that he had to quit his command in consequence of his health having entirely broken down.

At the siege of Cuddalore in 1783, the 71st were again the only Europeans in Eyre Coote's army of seven thousand men, which had to

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confront Hyder Ali's host of twenty-five battalions of infantry, four hundred Europeans, fifty thousand horse, more than a hundred thousand miscellaneous troops, aided by forty-seven pieces of artillery. To prevent the strengthening of the enemy's position there, General Stuart, who had succeeded Sir Eyre Coote, made a hasty attack. Unfortunately the three divisions which were to make this assault did not do so simultaneously. The result was that one of the divisions was repulsed. The enemy impetuously leapt out of their redoubts in pursuit, and these were taken possession of at once by Cathcart with the Grenadiers and Stuart. The loss sustained by the battalion amounted to one-half of the gross number in the field.

It was of this engagement that the

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Commander-in-Chief wrote : " I am also grateful to Captain Lamont and the officers under his command, who gallantly led *the precious remains* of the Seventy-third Regiment through the most perilous road to glory, until exactly one-half of the officers and men of the battalion were either killed or wounded."

News of peace having arrived, hostilities about Cuddalore ceased, and the officers and men who had been in captivity since Lieutenant-Colonel Baillie's disastrous battle, were restored to liberty. Only thirty of the men had survived.

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II

In 1786 the regiment became the 71st and received new colours.

In the subsequent campaigning against Tippoo Sahib, through fatiguing marches and skirmishes, the 71st had not many casualties, though climate and fatigue together claimed numerous victims.

In March 1791, however, the fort of Bangalore was taken after investment for sixteen days. At the taking of this place the 71st fought brilliantly along with the 74th, which is the regiment linked with them as a second battalion in 1881. Captain the Honourable John Lindsay told his men when they entered

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the breach to trust entirely to cold steel. With the help of scaling ladders, and in an attack of dauntless courage, Bangalore was captured, and in May the British advanced towards Seringapatam, driving the enemy into the island on which his strong capital was situated. The season, however, was too far advanced, so, burying and destroying what ammunition and stores could not be carried, they withdrew to Bangalore.

In October, activity was manifested once more, when the memorable capture of Nundydroog was effected. This was a great granite rock of considerable height, strongly fortified. It was impregnable on all sides except one. After fourteen days' hard toil the besiegers at last dragged up guns and made breaches

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in the walls. The assault was begun in early morning, in the moonlight, and the place was forced. Many of the enemy were dashed to pieces over the rocks when trying to escape.

The army then passed on in December to Savendroog, the strongest rock in Mysore, always considered to be impregnable. It was certainly a most formidable position, of greater height than Nundydroog, and cleft on the summit into two ridges, each of which was independently fortified. After preliminary battering the assailants clambered up the rocks and carried the citadels,—a marvel, indeed, when one reads how the crag was so steep that after the capture of the place the men who had climbed it were afraid to come down again!

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Immediately after these successes the strongholds of Mysore fell one after the other, and in the beginning of February 1792 the army set off for Seringapatam. This place was of such importance that the capture of it was expected to finish the war. Some heavy fighting took place there. Captain Lindsay narrowly missed winning right into the heart of the place, through the drawbridge being hauled up just before he reached it. A very remarkable coincidence occurred in this operation, providential in its result. The men at one redoubt which they had taken from the enemy had exhausted their ammunition, when two oxen of the enemy loaded with ammunition, having taken fright, broke away and took shelter in a ditch of the redoubt. Reinforcements arriving

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gave new eagerness to the besiegers, but the treaty, finally concluded on 18th March, sealed the fate of Tippoo Sahib. The result was the cession by him of at least one-half of his dominions.

In July 1793, in consequence of the Revolutionary Wars, the 71st accompanied the forces which were sent to besiege the French settlement of Pondicherry on the Coromandel Coast. The place surrendered, however, in the following month, and the 71st returned to India.

In consequence of Holland having joined with France in 1795, as the Batavian Republic, an expedition was organised against the Dutch settlements in Ceylon, and in this the 71st took part. Here they took Trincomalee, Batticaloe, and Manaar.

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In 1797 the regiment received orders to return to Europe. It was therefore drafted into the 73rd and 74th, while those who were unfit for further service, along with officers and non-commissioned officers, were sent home, arriving in Leith, in smacks, from the Thames, after an absence of almost eighteen years. It passed over to Ireland, where it was augmented by men from the Scottish Fencible Regiments serving there.

In 1806 it was sent to the Cape of Good Hope against the Dutch, but at Cape Town it could not effect a landing owing to the violence of the surf. Under Colonel Ronald Crauford Ferguson the Highland Brigade succeeded however, the Commander of the 71st, Colonel Denis Pack, being wounded in the process. Next

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they moved up to the Blaw Berg, where the Highland charge completely routed the Dutch. Thereafter the garrison of Cape Town surrendered, and the whole of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies were by treaty placed under British rule. Discovered by the Portuguese Diaz in 1487, the Cape had been in 1620 formally taken possession of by Humphrey Fitzherbert and Andrew Shillinge in name of King James I., but was not settled. In 1650 the Government of the Netherlands decided to settle it as a colony. Taken by the British for the Prince of Orange in 1795, it was restored to the Dutch in 1802 by the Peace of Amiens, and recaptured, as we have shown, in 1806.

Next followed, that same year, the

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expedition against Buenos Ayres,—a far cry then! Their successes here in June were overclouded by the capitulation to the Spaniards, in August, and they remained as prisoners till September 1807. Thereafter brought back to Ireland they received reinforcements from the second battalion, and new colours were presented to them, in place of those they had lost.

General Floyd, in presenting these, referred to the disaster at Buenos Ayres. He said, "It is well known that you defended your conquest with the utmost courage, good conduct, and discipline to the last extremity. When diminished to a handful, hopeless of succour, and destitute of provisions, you were overwhelmed by multitudes, and reduced by the fortune of war to

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lose your liberty, and your well-defended colours, but not your honour. Your honour, Seventy-first Regiment, remains unsullied. Your last act in the field covered you with glory. Your generous despair, calling upon your general to suffer you to die with arms in your hands, proceeded from the genuine spirit of British soldiers. Your behaviour in prosperity—your sufferings in captivity—and your faithful discharge of your duty to your King and country, are appreciated by all."

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III

In June 1808 the 71st joined the expedition of Sir Arthur Wellesley for Portugal, King George III. having changed its title to "The Glasgow Highland Regiment." It shared in the battle of Roleia, and thereafter marched to Vimiera, where the grenadier company greatly distinguished itself by capturing a battery with complete equipment, and holding what they took in the face of the determined efforts of the French to recover it. The French, under Kellerman, swept back again, when the weary 71st and 82nd were snatching a brief rest. These retired upon rising ground, whence, after

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a deadly volley, they rushed upon the advancing host and drove them headlong with the bayonet. Here again the characteristic zeal of the Highland piper was manifested in the conduct of George Clark, who, wounded and unable to share in the advance, cried, "Deil hae me, lads, if ye shall want for music!" and kept on playing a favourite regimental march, to the great delight of his comrades. During the advance Corporal John Mackay of the 71st won promotion as Ensign, through his capture of the French General Brennier. To the General's astonishment Mackay refused the purse which he offered as a reward for having saved his life, but Colonel Pack explained, "We are British soldiers, and not plunderers." The Convention of Cintra, by which the

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French evacuated Portugal, was the result of this victory.

Thereafter followed the experience of Corunna, grievous yet splendid in the extreme, representing the failure of the powerful attempt of Napoleon to chase the British out of the Peninsula. The Spanish army was widely scattered, poorly equipped, and wretchedly disciplined. It was under the command of three independent leaders, ignorant of warfare, and hating each other probably as much as they hated the French invader, torn and held apart by stupid jealousies. The British divisions were also three in number, and instead of being a single chain were in reality separate links, upon which Napoleon concentrated the whole strength of France. It was the genius of Moore,

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with the stern resolution of his men, that thwarted the accomplishment of Napoleon's scheme of a march upon Lisbon, with the intention of swinging round upon Moore to cut him off from the sea. Through icy rain, and across swollen, freezing streams, Moore still enticed Napoleon, drawing him away from the desire of his heart; till the tidings came that Austria had joined the league against him, and made the emperor leave Soult and Ney to destroy Moore. There never was a more trying retreat in the world, for Moore's troops were young and raw. He restored discipline to them by facing the enemy at Lugo and giving battle there, and then he drew his troops right out of the teeth of threatening disaster, fighting rear-guard actions all the

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while, on to Corunna intact—over bleak and terrible country, almost without fuel or food, with two great armies beating against him, while he never lost a gun or had his rear-guard broken. It was a lion's retiral, only ceasing to growl when it turned to smite, and finally worrying its pursuer. In this, one of the most splendid episodes of British military history, the 71st bravely bore its share of suffering, fatigue, and death.

In the same year, 1809, this regiment became an ordinary light infantry regiment. It was sent out in that year, in the wretched Walcheren Expedition. Something like its Highland humour still remained, for, when a company of it took possession of a battery on the coast, in lieu of a flag they hoisted up a

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soldier's red jacket. At Ter Veer and Flushing the 71st proved that it still had behind it the memory of a brave past.

In 1810, on the representations of Lieutenant-Colonel Pack, they were allowed to call themselves the Highland Light Infantry Regiment, retaining their pipes and the Highland garb for their pipers, along with the cocked bonnet for the corps. Lieutenant-Colonel Pack had said in his representation to the Horse Guards, "It cannot be forgotten how these pipes were obtained, and how constantly the regiment has upheld its title to them. These are the honourable characteristics which must preserve to future times the precious remains of the old corps, and of which I feel confident His Majesty will never

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have reason to deprive the 71st regiment."

That same year they were sent out to join Wellington, and were in touch with the 50th and 92nd in Cameron of Erracht's Brigade in the occupation of Sobral. Thereafter they withdrew to Torres Vedras. On the retiral of Massena they were brought into the struggle of Fuentes d'Onor, suffering severely. At Arroyo del Molinos they shared in the brilliant surprise which fell upon the French. The French were preparing to depart, when the cavalry of the allied armies rushed the village, in an early morning of blinding rain. The French commander thought it was only a raid of Spanish horsemen, but the bayonets of the 71st and the Gordons, with the skirl of the pipers playing *Hey*,

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Johnnie Cope, are ye waukin' yet? undeceived them, and they were glad to flee. Then at Almarez they took Fort Napoleon by escalade. The colossal struggle at Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz had work for the men of the 71st.

At Salamanca in 1812 and Vittoria in 1813 they gave their blood for the writing of the story of this grim campaign. At the last-named, in the storming of the heights of La Puebla, Colonel Cadogan fell, and the 71st avenged his death in the old brave way, three hundred remaining fit for duty out of a thousand who drew rations that morning.

In the struggle on the heights of Maya they were driven back by overwhelming numbers, clinging to every inch of rising ground in their

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retreat. The report to Sir Rowland Hill mentioned the 71st: "They maintained their position to the last, and were compelled, from the want of ammunition, to impede the enemy's occupation of the rock by hurling stones at them." The army continued retiring until the enemy in turn had to retreat, when his position in the Pass of Dona Maria was stormed, and the heights of Maya re-occupied. For their share in this brilliant struggle the 71st bear the proud word "Pyrenees" on their colours.

They were late in arriving at Nivelle, and so missed a chief part in that glorious fight; but they forded the Nive, and they fought at St. Pierre so brilliantly that their gallantry was acknowledged from headquarters. In that day they had

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been most mysteriously, through some momentary wavering of a brave man's judgment, withdrawn from a strong position. The Highlanders were most indignant, but amply atoned for their colonel's error when, the 92nd having repelled the French, they were permitted to leap into the fray once more, and to drive home the pursuit the others were too tired to undertake. At Urt a small picket of the regiment under Corporal Docherty beat off three times its number. In this neighbourhood it lived a life of skirmish. In the next year, 1814, the 71st added Orthes to the glorious record of its services, and it had some part to share in the battle of Toulouse.

On the finish of the war it returned to Ireland, but the escape of the

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emperor from Elba drew it back again into the land of war. And next it wrote among the honours on its flag the great name of Waterloo. There it was situated on the left and rear of Hougomont. In the terrible fighting of that day, in the charge and counter-charge, and in the strong and stubborn endurance of the indomitable Scottish regiments, the 71st bore its share patiently and gallantly, sheltering Wellington himself within its square, from a French attack. The square of its regiment was smote by a round shot which killed and wounded an officer and eighteen men. At one time, when moved to the right, it left a hundred and twenty men and seven officers, to show where it had stood. In the final charge which drove the flower of France into

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defeat, the remnant of the Highland Light Infantry put forth its last effort proudly. Thereafter they formed part of the army of occupation; and until the Crimea called them again into the fray, they were in service at home, in Canada, and the Bermudas.

The Crimea and the Mutiny made demands upon them as formerly, and they have Sebastopol and Central India to cover their labours, then and later.

A selected group of the 71st acted as sharp-shooters during the Umbeyla campaign of 1863. In 1869 it was linked with the 78th (Rossshire Buffs). In 1881, however, it was linked up with the 74th, and both battalions then assumed the Mackenzie tartan trews, in commemoration of its origin. This

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connection of its regiment with the Mackenzie tartan, while it was also in its inception known as Macleod's Highlanders, is responsible for a fruitless debate about the identity of the Macleod and Mackenzie tartans. The tartan of the 71st was of course Lord Macleod's, but people forgot that he was a Mackenzie, and that it was the colours of his clan, and not of his title, with which he clothed the force he raised for his country's service.

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IV

THE story of the 74th runs in parallel lines with the First Battalion.

The 74th had predecessors of its own number. Thus, in April 1758, the second battalions of fifteen regiments were formed into distinct regiments with numbers running from 61st to 75th.

The Second Battalion of the 36th regiment became the 74th, and so remained till its disbandment, five years later, after the peace of Fontainebleau. In 1777 Colonel John Campbell of Barbreck raised a regiment of Argyll Highlanders to serve in America, till the close of the war

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in 1783, when it was disbanded. In this regiment served the chief of the clan MacQuarrie, who was the kindly host of Johnson and Boswell, in his island of Ulva, but who had to sell his property in 1777 for his debts, and enter the army. He died in Mull in 1818, aged 103.

The 74th, of later days, was raised in 1787 for service in India by Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, who was on half-pay, having served in Fraser's Highlanders. It was very much attached to the Campbell interests, wearing the dark green tartan of the Campbells, somewhat similar to that of the 42nd, while its march past was *The Campbells are coming*. Amongst the officers, including the colonel, were ten Campbells, with two Forbeses and a Lamont.

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They were sent out to India in 1789. In 1791 they were at Bangalore, and in the assault upon the strong fort of Kistmagherry they displayed very distinguished gallantry. Having got close to the walls before discovery, they obtained possession of the gate. They attempted to carry also the almost inaccessible upper fort, and the enemy had scarcely time to slam the gates in their faces. As the 74th were without ladders they had to wait, but when these were brought up, the enemy with showers of stones broke the ladders and crushed those who carried them. As it was clear moonlight they were thus able to inflict considerable damage upon the attacking force, which had to retire.

Along with the 71st they were in

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the lines of attack next year, upon Seringapatam. They were at Pondicherry in 1793, and there they remained till 1798. Next year at the battle of Mallavelly they greatly distinguished themselves, as also at the storming of Seringapatam, being the first to enter Tippoo Sahib's palace, and in General Orders were spoken of as having behaved with unparalleled valour.

At Assaye, in September 1803, they were engaged so hotly that every officer was either killed or wounded, and they earned the badge of the elephant with the distinction of the title "The Assaye Regiment."

Argaum, Baroda, Chandore, and Gaulnah were also amongst their honours.

The Highland garb having been disused abroad, when the regiment

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came back home in 1806, after sixteen years in India, it donned the kilt once more and recruited in Scotland, with first of all Dumbarton Castle and thereafter Glasgow as headquarters. So urgent was the need for recruits that it was decided in 1808 to depart from rigid nationality and to accept Englishmen and Irishmen from the militia regiments. In 1809 the 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 91st, and 94th regiments were forbidden to continue to wear the Highland dress, but the title "Highland" was retained by the 74th till 1816.

In the year 1810 it sailed for the Peninsula, where it remained in the third division, called the "Fighting Division." Busaco drew forth their very best valour. There they had to endure a deadly cannonade. It

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was extremely trying to the 74th, composed as it was mostly of raw troops, to remain inactive in the task that was before it of guarding the road from St. Antonio de Cantera. It was at one moment thrown into a very critical position, from which it was saved by the quick action of General Leith, who sent reinforcements in time to enable a charge to be made, which repelled the enemy.

The 74th spent from September to December within the lines of Torres Vedras, having been followed in its retirement from Busaco by the French General, who thought he was chasing the British to the sea, and so allowed himself to be drawn through a devastated country, only to find that he had hung upon the heels of an unbroken army, till he

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saw them home into an impregnable position, where supplies were abundant.

Next year, 1811, the French made up their minds to leave Portugal, and, being pursued by the Allies, a skirmish was fought at Redinha, but Ney withdrew his men across the river. Again at Foz d'Aronce the French were driven over the Ceira and retreated across the frontier of Portugal.

At Fuentes d'Onor fresh laurels were acquired. In the second day's fighting the 74th had to be ordered up to help the defenders of the village who were very hard pressed, when it was nearly cut off by a heavy column of the French which was hid in a lane. The 74th ran perilous risk at Pastores, but they managed to pass the Agueda by a

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ford, and on their way back to the division captured some French cavalry. The rumour spread that the 74th themselves had been taken, but General Picton did not believe it, for he said he thought that before the 74th could be taken he would have heard the tokens of a more stubborn fight!

At the third siege of Badajoz their piper, MacLachlan, was first in the escalade, playing *The Campbells are coming*. He headed the advance along the rampart till his pipe-bag was pierced by a shot, when he sat down on a gun carriage, and heedless of the bullets which flew about him, calmly repaired the damage and resumed his tune!

In Ciudad Rodrigo, one of the most awful fights men ever had to face, they bore a valiant part, and were

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PIPER McLAUCHLAN, H.L.I., AT BADAJOZ

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mentioned in Wellington's despatch, for assiduity and devotion.

At the battle of Salamanca the advance of the 74th in line, for something like three miles, was conspicuously gallant. General Pakenham frequently called out, "Beautifully done, 74th — beautiful, 74th!" Lord Londonderry says, "So close indeed was the struggle that in several instances the British colours were seen waving over the heads of the enemy's battalions." Salamanca was the first decisive victory won by the Allies in the Peninsula. As Napier says, "In former actions the French had been repulsed, here they were driven headlong, as it were before a mighty wind, without help or stay."

In the movements prior to Vittoria, the Duke of Wellington, seeing a

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hill in front of the village of Arinez occupied by the enemy, had it taken at once, but the French still held the village itself, and the 74th under Captain McQueen, along with the 60th, dashed forward and drove the foe before them, an act of prompt courage which won for them unqualified praise. The French now retreated in confusion before the British lines towards Vittoria over ground full of very considerable difficulty—now wooded, now open, here cut up by ditches, there divided into vineyards, and the affair became for six miles "a running fight." In this Lieutenant Davies, who carried the colours, much distinguished himself; and Piper MacLachlan, who had behaved with such gallantry at Badajoz, had his legs blown off by a cannon shot

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while playing his comrades forward, but he played until he died. On the last defensible height before Vittoria the French made a desperate stand, only to be driven in total rout towards Pampeluna.

The division in which the 74th fought bore more than a third of the total loss of the whole army.

In the bitter and continuous fighting near Pampeluna, to prevent Soult from relieving that city, on 30th July 1813 the 74th did notable work and was specially mentioned for its distinguished gallantry.

The battle of Nivelle was welcomed by the 74th after its bitter experience of encampment through October on the summit of a bare mountain in front of the Pass of Echalar, suffering from scarcity of

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provisions for men and beasts. Next, Orthes gave them added fame.

The regiment was proud to recall the fact that when General Picton had occasion severely to reprimand the troops for looting and misconduct on their first entry into France, he said to this regiment, "As for you, 74th, I have nothing to say against you. Your conduct is gallant in the field and orderly in quarters." A rare compliment from such a man!

That the men were not case-hardened creatures, rendered cruel by warfare, is touchingly displayed by the fact that while in garrison in Madrid the 74th were so impressed by the misery of the starving people that along with the 45th they gave a daily dinner to about two

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hundred, who otherwise would have famished.

After Toulouse the regiment was sent home, and did service in Ireland, whence it was suddenly ordered for Belgium; but ere it arrived at Cork the glorious victory of Waterloo had been fought, and there was no necessity for its activities in that direction.

In 1818 the regiment received new colours. The tattered remains of the old ones, which had been carried for sixteen years through the glorious ardours of so many battlefields in India, Spain, and France, were burned to ashes, and the dust deposited in a gold box which was inlaid with the wood of the staves by which they had been borne. This is tenderly preserved as a regimental relic.

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In the same year it went out to Nova Scotia: seven years later it was in Bermuda. Then Ireland, the West Indies, Canada; till in 1845 it was home again, and next year on the urgent desire of the officers and men it was allowed to revert to its origin and to resume the dress and name of a Highland regiment. The old feeling had persisted, and the Lieutenant-Colonel, who had joined it as a Highland regiment in 1807 and served all through its many vicissitudes, knew what that spirit signified. The War Office, however, modified the costume to the tartan trews, plaid, and bonnet, as used by the 71st. This was granted to the 74th "in compliment to the services of that regiment, so well known to His Grace in India and in Europe." It adopted, at this time, a check like

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the Lamont tartan. The reason for the adoption of the Lamont tartan is not clear. When the Highland garb was resumed in 1846 the Adjutant-General wrote that the tartan now to be worn by the 74th should not be of the old regimental pattern, that being already in use by two other regiments (the 42nd and 93rd), but that it should be distinguished by the introduction of a white stripe. This is characteristic of the Lamont and the Forbes check. It has been plausibly asserted that it was the Forbes tartan which was adopted, because the first four hundred men, the nucleus of the regiment, were enlisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Forbes in Strathdon and the neighbouring Highlands of Aberdeenshire.

Not until 1851 were they again

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in active service. In that year they took a brilliant part in the Kaffir war, and the pipers played the army across the frontier into Kaffirland with the old tune of *Blue Bonnets over the Border*. It was a wild enough experience in this campaign. Stormy streams had to be crossed, crags and precipices to be climbed, and gloomy forests to be pierced, while hidden death awaited everywhere, and capture meant shocking mutilation and lingering doom.

In the *Birkenhead* next year Colonel Seton with his sixty-six men of the 74th went down, in that hour of superlative devotion—examples for all time of magnificent self-denial and discipline, in consequence of which, while not a single woman or child was drowned, four hundred and thirty-eight men were lost,

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only one hundred and ninety-three being saved.

The 74th was linked up with the 71st in 1881.

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In 1882 the Highland Light Infantry were in the Third Brigade in Egypt, under Sir Archibald Alison; and at Tel-el-Kebir they had to take a redoubt which almost baffled all their efforts. They took it, but at considerable cost.

In the great South African War the First Battalion were in the Highland Brigade with the 2nd Black Watch, the 1st Gordons, and the 2nd Seaforths. Along with the Argyll and Sutherlands they went into Magersfontein and tasted the bitterness of death and failure in that sad experience in the grey dawn. Eighty-seven of them fell in that fight, and

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SENTRY DUTY IN FLANDERS

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nine of their officers were killed and wounded, while fourteen officers and men were specially mentioned in Methuen's despatch.

In Sir Hector Macdonald's notable reconnaissance at Koodoesberg the Highland Light Infantry were the first of the Highland Brigade to come into action against the Boers. They shared in the actions round Heilbron, Winburg, Frankfort, and other places on the right flank of Lord Roberts, and in the capture of Prinsloo and his four thousand they co-operated. At Retief's Nek, along with the Sussex regiment, they drove the enemy away with heavy loss, and they were heavily engaged at Wittepoort.

In the present great campaign they have won considerable distinction.

In September, on the Aisne, one of

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the most amazing exploits of the war was performed by Private George Wilson of Edinburgh. When the Fifth Brigade were in action at Verneuil, he, accompanied by one man, attacked a German machine gun. His comrade was killed, but Wilson advanced alone, shot the officer in charge, and captured the gun after shooting and bayoneting the six men who worked it. For this he received the Victoria Cross—a well won honour.

At Ypres, Captain Loraine Brodie of the 2nd H.L.I. gained the Victoria Cross for a brilliant attack which cleared and recaptured several trenches.

Lance-Corporal William Angus of the 8th H.L.I. (Territorials), by his outstanding courage, secured the high distinction of being the first

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man in the Scottish Territorials to win the honour of the Victoria Cross. It is some compensation for the forty wounds he received in the field of his achievement!

There will be many more ere this colossal strife be finished.

Among the other distinctions won by the Highland Light Infantry in the present war, the following were awarded the D.C.M. Lance-Corporal Allison, of the Ninth Battalion (Glasgow Highlanders), on observation duty, stuck to his post at Festubert, and kept sending valuable information to his officer although wounded three times. Quartermaster-Sergeant Andrews, of the Second Battalion, displayed conspicuous gallantry and ability, especially in repairing and maintaining telephonic communication

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during action. Company Sergeant-Major Bell, of the First Battalion, near Ypres, while under heavy shell and rifle fire, left the trenches, and brought up ammunition; and again organised and brought reinforcements to the firing line. Private Crawford and Lance-Corporal Robertson, of the Second Battalion, also frequently displayed conspicuous gallantry.

The regiment has therefore proved itself worthy of its brave past, which has written on its colours the largest roll of honours in the British army, with the exception of that borne by the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Long may its glory remain to it!

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